

DECLASSIFIED

 PPS 7-3 R 43
 PPB-5
 November 24, 1980
ISRAEL - BLACK HEBREWS

- Q. Do you have any comment on the report on the Black Hebrews in this morning's Washington Post?
- A. --The legal status ^{in Israel} of the Black Hebrews is of course a matter for the Government of Israel to determine.
- As to the group itself, our Embassy is in regular contact with the Black Hebrew community. Consular officers visit the community at least once a month in the context of providing normal consular and citizen-welfare services?
- Q. Do you think that the Black Hebrew community has the potential of becoming another Peoples Temple cult like the one in Jonestown-Guyana?
- A. --We have been in touch with the Black Hebrew community for some time, and we believe there are important differences between the Black Hebrews and the group which formed the Peoples Temple.
- Q. What about the reports that American Blacks trying to visit Israel are being turned away or harassed at the airport?
- A. ((Use November 21 guidance))

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR	
REVIEWED BY <u>JL</u>	DATE <u>8/10/81</u>
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TS AUTH. _____	REASON(S) _____
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